

EXHIBIT A

Fischer sequence

IVALPXGMLK

SEQ ID NO: 2 (single letter sequence)

YFPPPAAKEDFLGCLVKEIPPRLLYAKSSPAYPSVLGQTIRNSRWSSPDNVKPIYIVTPTNASHIQSAVVC
GRRHGVRIRVRSGGHDYEGLSYRSLQPEEFVAVDL SKMRVWVDGKARTAWVDSGAQLGELYAIHKASTV
LAFFPAGVCPTIGVGGNFAGGGFGMLLRKYGIAAENVIDVKLVDANGTLHDKKSMGDDHFWAVRGGGGESFG
IVVAWKVRLLPVPPTVTVFVKIPKKASEGAVDIINRWQVVAPQLPDDL MIRVIAQGPTATFEAMYLGTCTL
TPMMSSKFPELGMNASHCNEMSWIQSIPFVHLGHRDNIEDDLLNRNNTFKPFAEYKSDYVYEPF PKRVWEQ
IFSTWLLKPGAGIMIFDPYGATISATPEWATPFPHRKGVLFN IQYVNYWFAPGAGAAPLSWSKEIYNYMEP
YVSKNPRQAYANYRDIDLGRNEVVNDVSTFSSGLVWGQKYFKGNFQRLAITKGKVDPTDYFRNEQSIPPLI
KKY

SIM+IALNVIEW analysis

37.5% identity in 8 residues overlap; Score: 22.0; Gap frequency: 0.0%

Fischer,	1	IVALPXGM
Phlp4(#2),	142	VLAFFPAGV
		* * *

SEQ ID NO: 4 (single letter sequence)

YFPPPAAKEDFLGCLVKEIPPRLLYAKSSPAYPSVLGQTIRNSRWSSPDNVKPIYIVTPTNASHIQSAVVC
GRRHGVRIRVRSGGHDYEGLSYRSLQPEEFVAVDL SKMRVWVDGKARTAWVDSGAQLGELYAIHKASPV
LAFFPAGVCPTIGVGGNFAGGGFGMLLRKYGIAAENVIDVKLVDANGTLHDKKSMGDDHFWAVRGGGGESFG
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TPMMSSKFPELGMNASHCNEMSWIQSIPFVHLGHRDNIEDDLLNRNNTFKPFAEYKSDYVYEPF PKRVWEQ
IFSTWLLKPGAGIMIFDPYGATISATPEWATPFPHRKGVLFN IQYVNYWFAPGAGAAPLSWSKEIYNYMEP
YVSKNPRQAYANYRDIDLGRNEVVNDVSTFSSGLVWGQKYFKGNFQRLAITKGKVDPTDYFRNEQSIPPLI
KKY

SIM+IALNVIEW analysis

37.5% identity in 8 residues overlap; Score: 22.0; Gap frequency: 0.0%

Fischer,	1	IVALPXGM
Phlp4(#4),	142	VLAFFPAGV
		* * *

SEQ ID NO: 6 (single letter sequence)



YFPPPAAKEDFLGCLVKEIPPRLLYAKSSPAYPSVLGQTIRNSRWSSPDNVKPLYIITPTNVSHIQSAVVC
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IVVAWQVKLLPVPPTVTIFKISKTVSEGAVDIINKWQVVAPQLPADLMIRIIAQGPATFEAMYLGTCKTL
TPLMSSKFPELGMNP SHCNEMSWIQSIPFVHLGHRDALEDDLLNRNNSFKPFAEYKSDYVYQFPKTVWEQ
ILNTWLVKPGAGIMIFDPYGATISATPESATPFPHRKGVLFN IQYVNYWFAPGAAAAPLSWSKDIYNYMEP
YVSKNPRQAYANYRDIDLGRNEVVNDVSTYASGKVWGQKYFKGNFERLAITKGKVDPTDYFRNEQSIPPLI
KKY

SIM+IALNVIEW analysis

42.9% identity in 7 residues overlap; Score: 19.0; Gap frequency: 0.0%

Fischer,	2	VALPXGM
Phlp4(#6),	143	LAFFPAGV
		* * *

EXHIBIT B



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☐ 1: [P43213](#). Reports RecName: Full=Pol...[gi:1171008]

[BLink](#), [Conserved Domains](#), [Links](#)
[Next sequence](#)

>gi|1171008|sp|P43213.1|MPAP1_PHLPR RecName: Full=Pollen allergen Phl p 1; AltName: Full=Allergen Phl p I; AltName: Allergen=Phl p 1; Flags: Precursor
MASSSSVLLVVVLFVAVFLGSAYGIPKVPPGPNITATYGDKWLDKSTWYGKPTGAGPKDNGGACGYKDVD
KPPFSGMTGCGNTPIFKSGRGCGSCFEIKCTKPEACSGEPVVVHITDDNEEPIAPYHFDLSGHAFGAMAK
KGDEQKLRSALELQFRRVKCKYPEGTKVTFHVEKGSNPNYLALLVKYVNGDGDVVAVDIKEKGKDKWI
ELKESWGAIWRIDTPDKLTGPFTVRYTTEGGTKTEADVIEGWKADTSYESK

☐ 2: [CAA81613](#). Reports pollen allergen P...[gi:3901094]

[BLink](#), [Conserved Domains](#), [Links](#)
[Next sequence](#)

>gi|3901094|emb|CAA81613.1| pollen allergen Phl p I [Phleum pratense] [previous sequence](#)
MASSSSVLLVVVLFVAVFLGSAHGIPKVPPGPNITATYGDKWLDKSTWYGKPTAAGPKDNGGACGYKDVD
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KGDEQKLRSALEVEIQFRRVKCKYPEGTKVTFHVEKGSNPNYLALLVKFVAGDGDVVAVDIKEKGKDKWI
ALKESWGAIWRIDTPEVLKGPFTVRYTTEGGTKGEAKDVIPEGWKADTAYESK

☐ 3: [2118271A](#). Reports allergen Phl p I...[gi:1582250]

[BLink](#), [Conserved Domains](#), [Links](#)
[Next sequence](#)

>gi|1582250|prf||2118271A allergen Phl p I [previous sequence](#)
MASSSSVLLVVVLFVAVFLGSAHGIPKVPPGPNITATYGDKWLDKSTWYGKPTAAGPKDNGGACGYKDVD
KPPFSGMTGCGNTPIFKSGRGCGSCFEIKCTKPEACSGEPVVVHITDDNEEPIAAYHFDLSGIAFGSMAM
KGDEQKLRSALEVEIQFRRVKCKYPEGTKVTFHVEKGSNPNYLALLVKFSGDGDVVAVDIKEKGKDKWIA
LKESWGAIWRIDTPEVLKGPFTVRYTTEGGTKARAKDVIPEGWKADTAYESK

☐ 4: [CAA55390](#). Reports Phl p I allergen ...[gi:473360]

[BLink](#), [Conserved Domains](#), [Links](#)
[Previous sequence](#)

>gi|473360|emb|CAA55390.1| Phl p I allergen [Phleum pratense]
MASSSSVLLVVVLFVAVFLGSAYGIPKVPPGPNITATYGDKWLDKSTWYGKPTGAGPKDNGGACGYKDVD
KPPFSGMTGCGNTPIFKSGRGCGSCFEIKCTKPEACSGEPVVVHITDDNEEPIAPYHFDLSGHAFGAMAK
KGDEQKLRSALELQFRRVKCKYPEGTKVTFHVEKGSNPNYLALLVKYVNGDGDVVAVDIKEKGKDKWI
ELKESWGAIWRIDTPDKLTGPFTVRYTTEGGTKTEADVIEGWKADTSYESK

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Sequence format	Pearson
Sequence type	aa
JalView	JalView
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Alignment file	clustalw2-20091002-1639515291.afn
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Scores Table

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Sequence Number

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SeqA Name	Len(aa)	SeqB Name	Len(aa)	Score
1 gi 1171008	263	2 gi 3901094	263	93
1 gi 1171008	263	3 gi 1582250	262	93
1 gi 1171008	263	4 gi 473360	263	100
2 gi 3901094	263	3 gi 1582250	262	98
2 gi 3901094	263	4 gi 473360	263	93
3 gi 1582250	262	4 gi 473360	263	93

PLEASE NOTE: Some scores may be missing from the above table if the alignment was done using multiple CPU mode. Please check the output.

Sort by

Sequence Number

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Alignment

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CLUSTAL 2.0.12 multiple sequence alignment

gi 1171008	MASSSSVLLVVVLFVFLGSAYGIKVPVPGPNITATYGDKNLDAKSTWYKPTAGPKDN	60
gi 473360	MASSSSVLLVVVLFVFLGSAYGIKVPVPGPNITATYGDKNLDAKSTWYKPTAGPKDN	60
gi 3901094	MASSSSVLLVVALFAVELGSANGIPKVPVPGPNITATYGDKNLDAKSTWYKPTAGPKDN	60
gi 1582250	MASSSSVLLVVALFAVELGSANGIPKVPVPGPNITATYGDKNLDAKSTWYKPTAGPKDN	60

gi 1171008	GGACGYKDVDPFPGMTGCGNTPIFKSGRGCGSCFEIKCTKPEACSGEPVVVHITDNE	120
gi 473360	GGACGYKDVDPFPGMTGCGNTPIFKSGRGCGSCFEIKCTKPEACSGEPVVVHITDNE	120
gi 3901094	GGACGYKDVDPFPGMTGCGNTPIFKSGRGCGSCFEIKCTKPEACSGEPVVVHITDNE	120
gi 1582250	GGACGYKDVDPFPGMTGCGNTPIFKSGRGCGSCFEIKCTKPEACSGEPVVVHITDNE	120

gi 1171008	EPIAPYHFDLSCHAFGAMAKKGDEOKLSAGELELQFRRVKCYPEGTKVTFHVEKGSNP	180
gi 473360	EPIAPYHFDLSCHAFGAMAKKGDEOKLSAGELELQFRRVKCYPEGTKVTFHVEKGSNP	180
gi 3901094	EPIAAYHFDLSGIAFGSMARKGDEOKLSAGEVEIQFRRVKCYPEGTKVTFHVEKGSNP	180
gi 1582250	EPIAAYHFDLSGIAFGSMARKGDEOKLSAGEVEIQFRRVKCYPEGTKVTFHVEKGSNP	180

gi 1171008	NYLALLVKYVNGCDVAVVDIKEKGKDWLFKESWGAIWRIDTPDKLTGPFVRYTTEG	240
gi 473360	NYLALLVKYVNGCDVAVVDIKEKGKDWLFKESWGAIWRIDTPDKLTGPFVRYTTEG	240
gi 3901094	NYLALLVKYVNGCDVAVVDIKEKGKDWLFKESWGAIWRIDTPDKLTGPFVRYTTEG	240
gi 1582250	NYLALLVKYVNGCDVAVVDIKEKGKDWLFKESWGAIWRIDTPDKLTGPFVRYTTEG	240

gi 1171008	GTRTEADVIPEGWKADTSYESK	263
gi 473360	GTRTEADVIPEGWKADTSYESK	263
gi 3901094	GTRTEADVIPEGWKADTSYESK	263
gi 1582250	GTRTEADVIPEGWKADTSYESK	263

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      (
        gi|3901094|:0.00369,
        gi|1582250|:0.00776)
      ):0.06095,
      gi|473360|:0.00000);
```

Unveiling the secrets of the primary structure of Phl p 4

Molecular cloning of the major pollen allergen from Timothy Grass (*Phleum pratense*)

A. Nandy, S. Buchhop, R. Suck, A. Petersen*, O. Cromwell, H. Fiebig

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*Research Center Borstel, Biochemical & Molecular Allergology, Borstel, Germany
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Introduction

Grass pollen allergy is one of the most common allergies worldwide. Recombinant allergens are believed to represent the future of allergen specific immunotherapy. Whereas the cDNA sequences of several grass pollen allergens are known, the coding sequence for Phl p 4, a major grass pollen allergen recognised by more than 70 % of allergic patients (1-5), has so far escaped detection (5).

Results

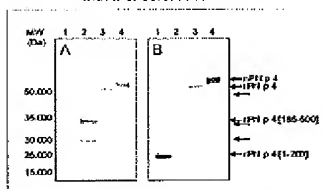
The deduced amino acid sequence of full length Phl p 4 contains 500 amino acids, with a calculated MW of 55,7 kDa and a calculated basic pI of 8,8 (Tab. 2). The identity of the Phl p 4 sequence has been confirmed by positive reaction of recombinant Phl p 4 with specific monoclonal antibodies (Fig. 2) and by reaction with IgE from grass pollen allergic (Fig. 3). A sequence database homology search revealed similarities to a group of berberine bridge enzyme-like oxido-reductases (Fig. 4).

Tab. 2 Phl p 4 Sequence analysis

Amino acid	Number	% by weight	% by frequency
A	4	0,8	0,04
C	1	0,2	0,01
D	20	4,0	1,6
E	40	8,0	4,0
F	26	5,2	4,0
G	42	8,4	8,0
H	36	7,2	2,0
I	30	6,0	2,0
L	30	6,0	2,0
N	19	3,8	2,0
P	10	2,0	1,0
Q	10	2,0	1,0
R	20	4,0	2,0
S	30	6,0	4,0
T	21	4,2	2,0
V	10	2,0	1,0
W	1	0,2	0,01
Y	1	0,2	0,01
Z	1	0,2	0,01
Sequence analysis			
Calculated values			
Molecular weight	55,7 kDa		
Length	500 amino acids		
Isoelectric point	8,8		
Hydropathy	0,2		
CD4 binding	Yes		
Conserved sequence			

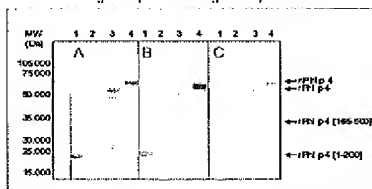
* To date the binding of a fawn co-factor could not be proved for purified natural or recombinant Phl p 4.

Fig. 2 Reaction of recombinant Phl p 4 with monoclonal antibodies



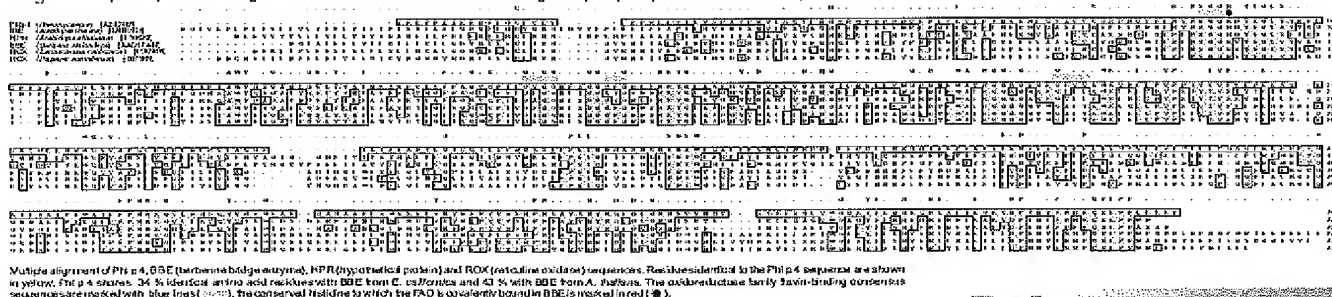
Western blot of whole cell extracts of E. coli expressing (1) a N-terminal fragment of Phl p 4 (aa 1-200, MW ~ 22 kDa), (2) a C-terminal fragment of Phl p 4 (aa 185-500, MW ~ 36 kDa), (3) full length recombinant Phl p 4, and (4) purified natural Phl p 4. A: The monoclonal antibody 3C4 detects Phl p 4. B: The monoclonal antibody 3C4 detects Phl p 4, Phl p 4 and the N-terminal fragment of Phl p 4.

Fig. 3 Reaction of recombinant Phl p 4 with IgE of grass pollen allergic subjects



Western blot of whole cell extracts of E. coli expressing (1) a N-terminal fragment of Phl p 4 (aa 1-200, MW ~ 22 kDa), (2) a C-terminal fragment of Phl p 4 (aa 185-500, MW ~ 36 kDa), (3) full length recombinant Phl p 4, and (4) purified natural Phl p 4. A: Incubation with sera of three different grass pollen allergic individuals (A, B, C) confirmed the IgE reactivity of recombinant Phl p 4.

Fig. 4 Phl p 4 sequence and alignment with members of the berberine bridge enzyme (BBE) oxido-reductase family



Multiple alignment of Phl p 4, BBE (berberine bridge enzyme), NPR (nicotinic oxidase) and ROX (resorcinol oxidase) sequences. Residues identical to the Phl p 4 sequence are shown in yellow, the p 4 sequence. 34 % identical amino acid residues with BBE from E. coli and 41 % with BBE from A. thaliana. The oxido-reductase family fawn-binding consensus sequence is marked with blue lines (---), the conserved histidine to which the FAD is covalently bound in BBE is marked in red (*).

Conclusion

The ability to produce recombinant Phl p 4, a major allergen of grass pollen with one of the highest IgE binding frequencies measured in sera of pollen allergic patients, may represent a key step for the development of future diagnostic and immunotherapeutic preparations. Recombinant Phl p 4 will also serve as a valuable tool to elucidate the role of the carbohydrate moiety of natural Phl p 4 in IgE reactivity and cross-reactivity with other plant and food allergens.

Methods

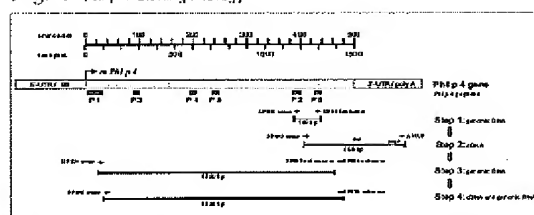
A set of degenerate oligonucleotide primers was designed based on N-terminal and internal protein sequences obtained from purified natural Phl p 4 (Tab. 1). In a complex PCR strategy (Fig. 1) involving degenerate and specific primers the Phl p 4 gene could be amplified from genomic DNA and from cDNA derived from *Phleum pratense* pollen.

Tab. 1 N-terminal and internal peptide sequences of Phl p 4

Region	Sequence	From	For	Tagment
P 1	YHRE AKED DGL LKE PPKLY AKSP EVD	1	31	N-terminal
P 1B	YHRE AKED DGL LKE PPKLY AKSP	1	29	N-terminal
P 1C	YHRE AKED DGL LKE PPKLY AKSP	1	15	N-terminal
P 1D	YHRE AKED DGL LKE PPKLY AKSP	1	15	N-terminal
P 1E	YHRE AKED DGL LKE PPKLY AKSP	1	15	N-terminal
P 1F	YHRE AKED DGL LKE PPKLY AKSP	1	11	N-terminal
P 2	KAPY KAPQVLA KAPV	365	431	Chlor
P 3	KAPY KAPQVLA KAPV	365	379	Chlor
P 4	KAPY KAPQVLA KAPV	365	379	Chlor
P 5	KAPY KAPQVLA KAPV	365	379	Chlor
P 6	KAPY KAPQVLA KAPV	432	439	Chlor

N-terminal sequencing of purified natural Phl p 4 and of fragments obtained from protease digestion or CNBr cleavage revealed the peptide sequences P1-P6. P1-P4 presumably represent different variants of native Phl p 4.

Fig. 1 Phl p 4 Cloning strategy



Step 1: Degenerate oligonucleotide primer pairs (DPA30 and DPA37) based on the Phl p 4 peptide sequences P2 and P6 have been used in a PCR reaction to amplify a small 149 bp internal DNA fragment of genomic *Phleum pratense* DNA.
Step 2: Based on that sequence a specific oligonucleotide primer (DPA32) was designed to be used in a 3'-RACE PCR approach in combination with the anchor primer ALAP (LNA technology). A 489 bp fragment spanning the entire 3'-end of the Phl p 4 gene could be obtained.
Step 3: Two specific antisense primers (SP485 and SP486) have been designed on the basis of other sequences. These were used in combination with a degenerate sense primer pair (DPA20) based on the N-terminal peptide P1 to amplify genomic Phl p 4 DNA in a "sense-antisense" oligonucleotide, antisense site nested uniprimer" PCR approach. Resulting 1320 bp fragments have been identified and sequenced. The sequences of the peptide fragments could be aligned with the deduced amino acid sequence of this fragment confirming the identity with the Phl p 4 gene.
Step 4: A specific sense primer (SP488) has been designed and was used together with SP486 antisense to amplify a 1336 bp fragment of Phl p 4. Several independent PCR products from genomic DNA as well as from cDNA have been sequenced to exclude PCR errors. Different variants of Phl p 4 could be detected. The identity of cDNA and genomic clones show that no intron sequences are present in the amplified region.

References

- 1) R. Suck, S. Hagen, O. Cromwell, H. Fiebig (2000), Clin. Exp. Allergy, 30, 1365-1402
- 2) R.E. Ross, G. Monasterolo, S. Monasterolo (2001), Allergy 56, 1180-1183
- 3) S. Skumvill, J. Lidholm, R. Thunberg, A. DeWitt, P. Elkhart, I. Svedholm, A. Bugnion-Schroter, S. Spitzauer, L. Vangelista, L. Kazem-Shimzi, W.A. Spert, O. Kraft, R. Valente (2002), Biol. Chem., 383, 1383-1396
- 4) A. Mari (2003), Clin. Exp. Allergy, 33, 43-51
- 5) K. Andersson, J. Lidholm (2003), Int. Arch. Allergy Immunol., Review article, 130, 87-107

DNA sequences of group 4 allergens from rye, wheat, barley and *Lolium perenne*

Comparison with isoforms of *Phleum pratense* Phl p 4

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Introduction

Grass pollen allergy is one of the most important allergic diseases world-wide. Several grass species grown in meadows, like *P. pratense* and *L. perenne*, contribute to allergic sensitisations, but also allergens from extensively cultured cereals, especially rye, make a profound contribution to the development of allergy. The group 4 major allergen of *P. pratense*, Phl p 4, is recognised by more than 70 % of grass allergic patients^{1,2,3}. IgE-binding cross-reactivity has been described for some group 4 allergens of different grass species⁴, but until now only the Phl p 4 gene could be deciphered on the DNA-level.

Results

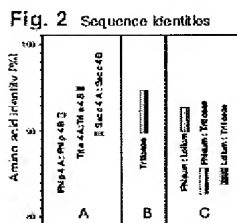
The Poideae group 4 allergens represent a family of basic proteins with molecular weights of about 55 kDa and calculated pI values far above 8 (Tab. 1, Fig. 1). In rye, wheat and *P. pratense* distinct isoforms with amino acid identities of 88 to 94 % could be detected. Additionally these isoforms exist in different minor variants. The inter-species homology lies in the range 83 % (Phl p 4 to Triticeae species) to 95 % (Sec c 4 to Tri a 4) (Fig. 2, Fig. 3).

Tab. 1 Sequence analysis of grass pollen group 4 allergens

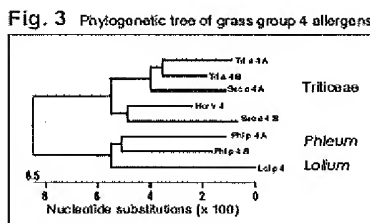
Protein	Source	Sequence length (amino acids)	Isoelectric point (pI)	Molecular weight (Da)
Phl p 4 A	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	500	8.8	55.895
Phl p 4 B	<i>Phleum pratense</i>	500	9.2	55.624
Lol p 4	<i>Lolium perenne</i>	423 (fragment)	8.8*	-
Sec c 4 A	<i>Secale cereale</i> (rye)	498	9.1	54.930
Sec c 4 B	<i>Secale cereale</i> (rye)	498	9.3	54.903
Tri a 4 A	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> (wheat)	497	8.8	55.237
Tri a 4 B	<i>Triticum aestivum</i> (wheat)	497	8.8	55.149
Hor v 4	<i>Hordeum vulgare</i> (barley)	496	9.3	54.815

The sequence length, isoelectric points and molecular weight calculations were made on the basis of the mature proteins. For Phl p 4 the N-terminal residue has been determined by N-terminal protein sequencing. Based on the homology alignment (Fig. 1) the putative cleavage sites of trypsin have been determined for calculation.

*The Lol p 4 sequence is only partial and contains about 85 % of the mature Lol p 4 sequence.



The amino acid identities were calculated on the basis of the mature proteins. In case of Lol p 4 the overlapping region has been used for calculation. A: The sequence identities of intra-species variants of group 4 allergens range from 88 % (Sec c 4 A to Sec c 4 B) to 94 % (Tri a 4 A to Tri a 4 B). B: The identities of allergens of the Triticeae species range from 88 % (Sec c 4 A to Tri a 4 A) to 95 % (Sec c 4 A to Tri a 4 B). C: Inter-species identities of members of the genera *Phleum*, *Lolium* and of the 3 Triticeae genera *Hordeum*, *Triticum* and *Secale*.



The dendrogram illustrates the phylogenetic relationships of the grass group 4 sequences. The rooted tree has been generated by using the DNA sub-sequences that overlap the Lol p 4 fragment (122-212 bp). Remarkably intra-species variants (e.g. Sec c 4 A and Sec c 4 B) show sequence identities similar to those of sequences originating from different Triticeae species (compare also Fig. 2A and 2B). The same can be seen for *Phleum pratense* variants that have similar degrees of amino acid difference as compared to the *Lolium perenne* sequence (compare also Fig. 2A and 2C).

Methods

Based on the DNA sequence of Phl p 4 several PCR-primer sequences with cross-reactivity to DNA sequences of related species could be designed. The group 4 DNA sequences of *Lolium perenne* (Lol p 4), *Secale cereale* (Sec c 4), *Hordeum vulgare* (Hor v 4), and *Triticum aestivum* (Tri a 4) have been amplified, cloned and sequenced.

Fig. 1 Deduced amino acid sequence alignment of grass pollen group 4 allergens

Phl p 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	42
Phl p 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	42
Lol p 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	9
Sec c 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	55
Sec c 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	57
Tri a 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	57
Tri a 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	54
Hor v 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	55
Phl p 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	100
Phl p 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	100
Lol p 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	26
Sec c 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	111
Sec c 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	113
Tri a 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	113
Tri a 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	113
Hor v 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	113
Phl p 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	169
Phl p 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	169
Lol p 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	58
Sec c 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	173
Sec c 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	175
Tri a 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	170
Tri a 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	170
Hor v 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	173
Phl p 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	215
Phl p 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	215
Lol p 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	144
Sec c 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	230
Sec c 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	230
Tri a 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	231
Tri a 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	231
Hor v 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	232
Phl p 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	278
Phl p 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	278
Lol p 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	260
Sec c 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	361
Sec c 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	361
Tri a 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	360
Tri a 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	360
Hor v 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	361
Phl p 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	396
Phl p 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	396
Lol p 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	321
Sec c 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	406
Sec c 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	406
Tri a 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	406
Tri a 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	406
Hor v 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	407
Phl p 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	455
Phl p 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	455
Lol p 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	445
Sec c 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	468
Sec c 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	468
Tri a 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	465
Tri a 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	465
Hor v 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	468
Phl p 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	504
Phl p 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	504
Lol p 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	423
Sec c 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	518
Sec c 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	518
Tri a 4 A	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	518
Tri a 4 B	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	518
Hor v 4	-----SSGEVAFLE-----YETPTFAKRRKPLKGVKVEETPRFLYAKRRKRRVFF	515

Multiple alignment of *Phleum pratense* Phl p 4 variant forms, *Lolium perenne* Lol p 4, *Secale cereale* (rye) Sec c 4 variant forms, *Triticum aestivum* (wheat) Tri a 4 variant forms, and *Hordeum vulgare* (barley) Hor v 4. Residues that match the consensus sequence are shaded in yellow. The start of the mature Phl p 4 sequence as deduced by N-terminal protein sequencing of purified natural Phl p 4 is marked with a red arrow. Potential N-glycosylation sites are marked with a blue asterisk.

*The Lol p 4 sequence is only partial and contains about 85 % of the mature Lol p 4 sequence.

Conclusion

The group 4 allergens represent a family of proteins that are conserved among different grass species. The occurrence of cross-reacting isoforms in distinct species with amino acid homologies that are comparable to those of different group 4 molecules across the species border is remarkable. Since recombinant group 4 allergens may be important for a future recombinant allergen based specific immunotherapy, strong efforts should be made to evaluate the cross-reactive therapeutic potential of the different group 4 allergens and their isoforms.

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Recombinant *Phleum pratense* pollen allergen Phl p 4 Clues to new data for an old allergen?

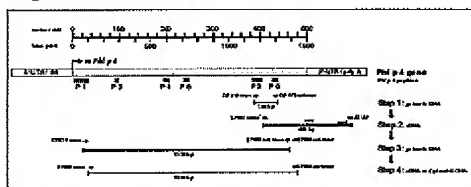
A. Nandy, M. Wald, B. Weber, H. Kahlert, O. Cromwell, H. Fiebig

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Introduction

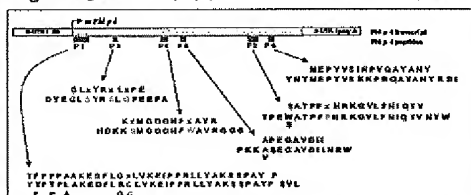
The group 4 allergens of grasses were first described more than 20 years ago and are well known as important major allergens of grass pollen allergy, one of the most common allergies world-wide. Phl p 4 is a basic glycoprotein that, together with Phl p 13, accounts for the high molecular weight fraction of grass pollen allergens. Frequencies of IgE sensitisation higher than 70% have often been reported (1-3), and therefore Phl p 4 seems to be as important as Phl p 5. Contrary to the situation for Phl p 5 and other important Phl allergens, the primary structure of Phl p 4 has been discovered only recently, despite very considerable efforts in the past.

Fig. 1 Phl p 4 cloning strategy



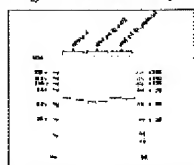
Step 1: Open source oligonucleotide primer pools (OPR) and OPR2, based on the Phl p 4 cDNA sequences (P2 and P4) have been used in a PCR reaction to amplify a 148 bp internal DNA fragment of genomic *Phleum pratense* DNA.
Step 2: Based on that sequence a specific oligonucleotide primer (OPR3) was designed to be used in a 3' RACE-PCR approach in combination with the anchor primer AUP (4, 6) technology. A 489 bp fragment spanning the entire 3' end of Phl p 4 cDNA could be obtained.
Step 3: Two specific cDNA sequences (OPR3 and OPR4) have been designed on the basis of that sequence. These were used in combination with a degenerate sense primer pool (DPR2) based on the internal peptide P1 to amplify genomic Phl p 4 DNA in a 3' sense side nested oligonucleotide, antisense side nested unique primer PCR approach. A resulting 1500 bp fragment was obtained and sequenced.
Step 4: A specific sense primer (OPR5) has been designed and was used together with DPR2 and sense to amplify a 1330 bp fragment of Phl p 4. Several independent PCR products from genomic DNA as well as from cDNA have been sequenced to exclude PCR errors. Other variants of Phl p 4 could be detected. The identity of cDNA and genomic clones show that no rearrangements are present in the single clones.

Fig. 2 Alignment of Phl p 4 peptides with deduced amino acid sequences



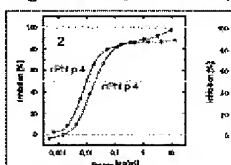
Natural Phl p 4 derived N-terminal and internal peptide sequences (the lines) were used to confirm the deduced Phl p 4 (green lines) and Phl p 4 (red lines) genomic and cDNA sequences.

Fig. 4 SDS-PAGE analysis



RT-PCR comparison of natural Phl p 4, recombinant Phl p 4 expressed in *E. coli*, and expressed in *P. pastoris*.

Fig. 5 Human IgE inhibition assay

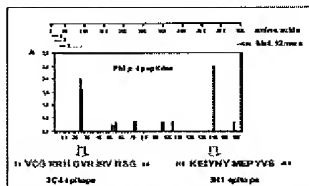


IgE inhibition assay using sera of grass pollen allergic blood donors and purified natural Phl p 4 on solid phase. The inhibitory capacity of natural Phl p 4 (green dots) and recombinant Phl p 4 purified from *P. pastoris* (red dots) expression cultures was compared. The sera of subjects I and II are known to react on significant amounts of cross-reacting antibody determined standard (GDO) IgE antibodies.

Results

The experimental procedure that in the end led to the genomic and cDNA sequences of the gene was based on a complex PCR strategy involving specific and degenerate primers (Fig. 1). The identified sequence has been confirmed to be Phl p 4 by alignment of the deduced amino acid sequence with natural Phl p 4 derived peptides (Fig. 2). The deduced amino acid sequences of two variants of mature Phl p 4 consist of 500 amino acids each, with calculated molecular weights of 56 kDa and basic pI's of 8,8 and 9,2, respectively. A sequence database homology search revealed similarities to berberine bridge enzyme-like oxidoreductases (Fig. 3). Recombinant Phl p 4 was expressed in *E. coli* as inclusion bodies and has been subjected to a refolding procedure. However, the correct folding turned out to be difficult to achieve. Therefore we have expressed Phl p 4 in the methylotrophic yeast *Pichia pastoris*. The *P. pastoris* derived Phl p 4 is highly soluble and has been purified via His-tag from culture supernatants. Purified recombinant Phl p 4 has been characterised by SDS-PAGE (Fig. 4), IgE inhibition assay (Fig. 5), and protein dots using monoclonal antibodies, as well as IgE containing allergic subjects' sera (Fig. 6). The epitopes of two monoclonal antibodies 3C4, and 5H1 could be localised to the N-terminal and C-terminal domain, respectively (Fig. 7). A 3-D model of Phl p 4 was generated on the basis of the vanillyl-alcohol oxidase (VAO) structure (Fig. 8).

Fig. 7 Identification of mAb epitopes



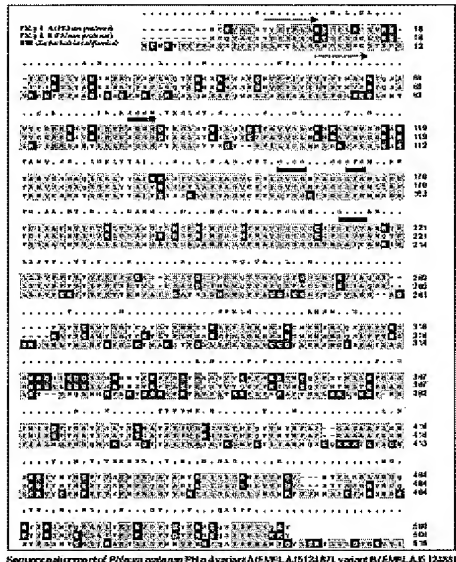
Overlapping short peptides have been synthesized, biotinylated, and adsorbed to streptavidin coated NTP. The bound Phl p 4 specific monoclonal antibodies were detected by AP-conjugated IgG.

Fig. 8 3-D homology model of Phl p 4



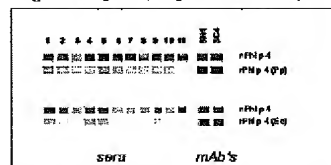
The consensus sequence of the BBE-like oxidoreductase family (9) have been used to align the Phl p 4 and vanillyl-alcohol oxidase (VAO) sequences. A 3-D homology model of Phl p 4 has been generated on the basis of molecular structure of VAO (9) using the program Discovery Studio Modeling, Accelrys, St. Louis, U.S.A.

Fig. 3 Alignment of Phl p 4 and the berberine bridge enzyme (BBE)



Sequence alignment of *Phleum pratense* Phl p 4 variant A (AA1512187) variant B (AA1512188) and *Escherichia coli* berberine bridge enzyme (D12559) (D12559). The consensus line shows identical residues. The start of the mature Phl p 4 sequence as deduced by N-terminal protein sequencing of purified natural Phl p 4, and the first amino acids of BBE are marked with red arrows. Cysteine are shaded in yellow, acidic residues in red, basic residues in blue, and hydrophobic residues are shaded in green. The two oxidoreductase family berberine bridge enzyme sequences are marked with black lines, the identical residues as the consensus alignment are marked with red lines. The start of the mature Phl p 4 sequence is marked with red arrows.

Fig. 6 Allergen strips - IgE and mAb reactivity



Allergen strips comparing Phl p 4 (p) and Phl p 40 (p) expression cultures and Phl p 4A expressed in *E. coli*. The *E. coli* derived protein has been purified from inclusion bodies and was subjected to 4M GdnHCl prior to strip.

Conclusion

The ability to produce recombinant Phl p 4 may represent a key step for the development of future diagnostic and immunotherapeutic preparations and may be of special importance for those allergic persons that show a strong IgE response to Phl p 4.

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